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\$54 MILLION AWARDS SUPPORT STATE'S GROWING NEED FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

November 7, 2013 (St. Paul, MN) –Today, Minnesota Housing awarded more than \$54 million for affordable housing developments across the state that will create 1,904 units of affordable housing, and support thousands of jobs statewide. The announcement comes at a time when the number of Minnesotans who are cost-burdened (paying more than 30% of their income for housing) in Minnesota remains high and available affordable housing is scarce. The awards provide financing for affordable housing through deferred loans, amortizing loans, rental assistance and housing tax credits.

"From new construction of townhomes in suburban areas to rental assistance for households with long histories of homelessness and homeless families with young children, this funding represents our deep commitment to housing stability for all Minnesotans," said Mary Tingerthal, Commissioner of Minnesota Housing.

Approval of this funding also marks the significant achievement of the state's business plan to end long-term homelessness, creating more than 4,000 new supportive housing opportunities. Minnesota Housing has made significant strides in efforts to end long-term homelessness and will join ten other state agencies in December to publish a new state plan to expand these efforts to reach other populations as well.

Of the 64 applications funded today, four developments, representing 263 units, are made possible by the Governor's 2013 Housing and Job Growth Initiative, to assist in financing affordable housing in the parts of the state where employers are poised to expand. During the 2013 Legislative Session, Governor Dayton and the Minnesota Legislature invested \$10 million in the Housing and Job Growth Initiative to support business expansion in Greater Minnesota communities.

Under the Governor's Jobs and Housing initiative, interest-free deferred loans, repayable in 30 years will create housing located in job growth areas where economic growth has been hampered by critical workforce housing shortages.

"We appreciate the State of Minnesota's commitment to invest in this new housing in Roseau," said Jim O'Neill, HR Manager at Polaris Industries, Inc. "This kind of investment by the state is critical for helping companies like ours that are experiencing success in Northwest Minnesota. Good, affordable housing improves our ability to attract and retain the skilled and talented workforce we need to stay competitive and continue to grow our business and, ultimately, our communities."

As the state's affordable housing lender, Minnesota Housing leverages significant additional public and private investment through these awards. The Low Income Housing Tax Credit program leverages more than \$123 million in private equity. The funding also preserves 540 units of existing federally-subsidized rental housing, which leverages more than \$42 million in federal rent subsidies over the next 30 years.

The funding selections represent a wide variety of housing choices and reflect the Agency's other strategic priorities of preventing foreclosures and supporting community recovery as well. New housing choices are located both in suburbs and central cities, with attention paid to affordable housing along transit corridors.

Organizations receiving funds include nonprofit and for-profit developers, community development agencies and local units of government. Each project was selected through the Minnesota Housing annual Consolidated Request for Proposals (RFP). This RFP is a national model that allows housing providers to apply for funding from a variety of sources through a single streamlined application.

The total \$54 million in funding includes \$7.7 million from funding partners including: Metropolitan Council, Minnesota Department of Human Services, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Greater Minnesota Housing Fund and the Family Housing Fund (subject to approval by each organization).

View renderings, map and a detailed breakdown of all funding awards [here](#).

In addition to the awards detailed above, the Agency also approved funding today for rental assistance for homeless and highly mobile families with school-aged children. The initiative will provide families with stable housing which will lead to improved school attendance, and ultimately better performance in school.

Minnesota Housing finances affordable housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income Minnesotans while fostering strong communities. Find out more at www.mnhousing.gov and follow us on Twitter @mnhousing and at www.facebook.com/minnesotahousing.

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